

HF Happenings 732

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

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www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

December

1 - Start of "Youth on the Air" Month

2 to 4 - Round the Bend Camp, Swellendam

3 - International Day for Disabled Persons

3 and 4 - UK/EI DX SSB Contest; Beestekraal Festival Summer Bash

4 - SARL Digital Contest

7 - all schools close

8 to 31 - Witsand Christmas Market

10 - International Human Rights Day; Christmas Country Market, Wakkerstroom

10 and 11 - ARRL 10 m Contest

11 - SARL Youth Net

16 - Day of Reconciliation

21 - Summer Solstice

25 - Christmas Day; Channukah (1st Day)

26 - Family Day

27 - closing date for January 2017 Radio ZS articles

31 - Old Year's Eve; **End of 2016 CQ Marathon and YOTA month**

Transatlantic Reception Anniversary Special Event Set for 11 December

An Amateur Radio special event on 11 December will commemorate the 95th anniversary of the first transatlantic short-wave reception between Greenwich, Connecticut and Scotland. A school near the original site is hosting the event. The ARRL, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) and the Radio Club of America (RCA), are partnering in sponsoring the activity. The Greenwich Historical Society will also participate.



On 11 December 1921, reception in Ardrossan, Scotland, of a radio signal transmitted from the official test station of Minton Cronkhite, 1BCG, in a small shack on the corner of Clapboard Ridge Road and North Street in Greenwich, helped to usher in the age of global communication. The special event will use N1BCG, the call sign of Clark Burgard of Greenwich, who obtained that call sign to commemorate this bit of radio history. Burgard was instrumental in making arrangements for the event.

The N1BCG special event will begin on Sunday 11 December at 12:00 and conclude at 03:00 UTC on 12 December. It will include an attempt at a two-way contact between N1BCG and GB2ZE, operated by Jason O'Neill, GM7VSB, in Ardrossan.

Reception in Scotland of the 1BCG signal was part of the second series of ARRL transatlantic tests. For the receiving end, the ARRL Board had selected a receiver designed by Paul Godley, 2ZE, and Godley travelled to the UK to oversee that end of the circuit. Joining

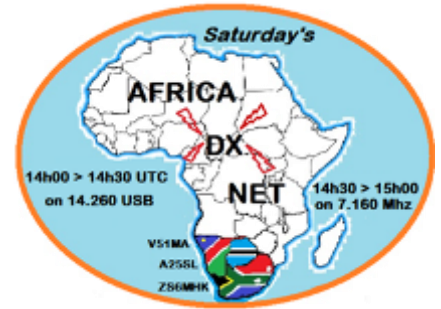
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Godley in a field in Ardrossan, south-west of Glasgow, was Marconi Company District Inspector D.E. Pearson. As the QST article, "The Transatlantic Tests" (QST Dec. 2014) by Michael Marino, WN1M, recounted, "The two attempted to keep out of the driving wind and rain by sheltering themselves - and their equipment - in a tent. This rough listening post was comprised of a (superheterodyne and regenerative) receiver, a 1,300-foot Beverage antenna suspended 12 feet above ground, batteries and auxiliary equipment."



The 1BCG 1 kW CW transmitter



January

1 - New Year's Day; start of 2017
CQ Marathon
2 - Public Holiday
11 - All schools open
14 and 15 - Hunting Lions in the Air
20 to 22 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
25 - Closing date February Radio ZS articles
28 - Summer QRP Sprint; Chinese New Year



On the morning of 10 December, CW signals of 1BCG, which had been designed and constructed by Radio Club of America members - were solidly copied on 230 to 235 metres (about 1,3 MHz). They were the only signals heard that morning in Ardrossan. By the end of the test, 8 spark and 18 CW stations had been heard as well.

N1BCG operation will be on AM on 75 and 40 meters; CW and SSB on 40 meters, CW on 30 meters and CW and SSB on 20 and 17 meters. Approximate frequencies are 3 880 (AM), 7 290 (AM), 7 235 (SSB), 7 040 (CW), 10 112 (CW), 14 280 (SSB), 14 040 (CW), 18 125 (SSB) and 18 088 MHz CW.

January 1922 QST trumpeted the success of the transatlantic tests.

Club Log's Most Wanted List

The latest Most Wanted List, generated on 1 December, is available at <https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>. The information is derived from QSOs uploaded to Club Log (currently 394 million log entries available for analysis) and, to improve quality, only QSOs that have QSLs confirmed are considered to be worked.

Antarctica

Oleg, ZS1OIN, plans to be active as RI1ANA from the Molodyozhnaya research station until April 2017. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

Nigeria, 5N/5N40

Look for Tom, PA3TG (5N/PA3TG), to be active using the special call sign 5N40TG from Lagos starting 1 January 2017. Details were not given for the reason on the uses of the special call sign. Activity will be on 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign.

UP25, Kazakhstan (Special Event)

Look for the following special event stations to be active to cele-

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Objective: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. Dates: Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (December 10-11, 2016). All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period. Contest Exchange: W/VE stations (including Hawaii and Alaska) send RS(T) and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC), DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc.) send RS(T) and sequential serial number starting with 001, Mexican stations transmit RS(T) and their state, Maritime mobile stations send RS(T) and ITU Region (R1, R2 or R3). <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

ZS5HAM Amateur Radio Display

The Highway Amateur Radio Club, ZS5HAM, will be presenting a full-blown Amateur Radio display, including a high altitude balloon at the Watercrest Mall.

This will be taking place from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 December at the Watercrest Mall, 141 Inanda Road, Waterfall. The GPS coordinates are -29.7488, 30.8125.

A special welcome from the Highway Amateur Radio Club to the event for those amateurs on holiday from outside Kwazulu-Natal and other (strange) places! The schools close on 7 December and for those traveling down to the coast it is a short detour! Durban city only a 30 minute drive from Watercrest, easy access to both the N3 and M13. For more information, contact Mike, ZS5MAB at rollo@mweb.co.za.

Vintage Radio Weekend on the air on 17 and 18 December

The Vintage Radio Group will be 'sponsoring' a Vintage Radio Weekend on the air on 17 and 18 December. This event is open to everyone with vintage gear to participate on-air, on any band, any mode, any time over the weekend.

MXOVRG will be active on the 40 m band (subject to conditions) during the week-

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end using a FT-101ZD or TS-830S and possibly an IC-735.

There has been a great deal of interest expressed by amateurs in Belgium and Germany as well as the UK, so we hope that there will be plenty of vintage activity from young and old alike.

This free downloadable, high resolution, self-service Certificate is available to all participants. The certificate is available from the VRG website at <https://sites.google.com/site/vintageradiogroup/vintage-radio-weekends>. This short URL also links to the webpages but service is often glitchy <http://tinyurl.com/mx0vrg>

'Vintage' is very loosely defined, but mainly applies to equipment made before 1985 or thereabouts, way back to the 1920s or beyond! Further Vintage Radio Weekends are also planned for 2017, at bi-monthly intervals.

Bulletins about the December weekend will be posted on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MOPHX> (hashtag #VINTRADIO) - no login needed.

We hope you will be able to participate, and even if you cannot, please spread the word. The VRG is affiliated to the Phoenix ARC as a 'Special Interest Group'.

Alan, G7HZZ, for PARC-VRG

African DX

Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9Q. Christian, ISOBWM can be heard from the club station 9H0HQ/3 in Kenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He plans to stay in the Congo until Christmas Day, 25 December. Send QSL cards directly to his address in Sardinia.

Mauritania, 5T. Vladimir, UA4WHX is active as 5T9VB from Nouakchott. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

The Gambia, C5. Bogdan, SP2FUD, and Zenon, SP2GCJ, are once again active as C5FUD and C5GCJ, respectively, from Brufut, The Gambia. The length of their stay is not known. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL C5FUD via SP2FUD. QSL C5GCJ via SP2GCJ.

Zimbabwe, Z2. Herbert, DE1ZHB/7Z1HB, is once again active as Z21LS from Harare until sometime in January. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via DE1ZHB.

West African Tour. Peter, HA3AUI, will once again be active from two West African countries between (approx.!!!) 20 January and 5 March 2017. His plans are to be active as 6W2SC from Cabrousse, Senegal, and as J5UAP from Cabroxo, Guinea-Bissau. Specific dates were not provided. Watch his web page for possible updates at <http://cqafrika.net/en/welcome/index.html>

He does state that from Senegal (6W) he will have a K3, Spiderbeam, 100 or 500 W, and will operate on 20 to 10 meters CW (other bands/modes on request). Peter may activate some IOTAs and/or WFFs as 6w2sc/p. From Guinea-Bissau (J5), he will have a K3, 100 w, verticals, and operate 20 to 10 meters CW (other modes on request). QSL via LoTW or direct via his home call sign HA3AUI.

Rwanda, 9X. Harald, DF2WO, will be active as 9XB954 (quite an unusual call sign) from 3 February to 11 March during his stay in Kigali, Rwanda. QSL via M0OXO's OQRS (www.m0oxo.com).



5U5R Niger by the Tifariti Gang. A team composed by F9IE, F8ATS, HK6F, UT7CR, RU1WM, IN3ZNR, EA1SA, EA2RY, EA5KM, EA7AJR, EA7KW and EA5RM will be on the air from Niamey, Niger, from 8 to 21 March 2017. They will be on all bands from 6 to 160 meters on SSB, CW and RTTY as 5U5R. More news and updates are available at www.dxfriends.com/5u5r



brate 25th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan between now and 31 December. A special award will be available working the stations (as well for SWLs). Award will be published electronically by the HAMLOG.RU Web site. Additional information can be read at <http://kazakhstan25.hamlog.ru/?locale=en>

QSL cards for QSOs with UP25CWA, UP25ECA, UP25I, UP25J, UP25KZ, UP25L, UP25LL, UP25LW, UP25M, UP25N, UP25NFD, UP25NR, UP25NWA, UP25O, UP25OAG, UP25P, UP25PA, UP25TX, UP25ZA, UP25ZAF, UP25ZF, UP25ZWW and UP25Z can be obtained by RW6HS QSL Manager.

New book on SDR for Amateur Radio Operators, Short Wave Listeners, and anyone interested in radio as a hobby

This is not a textbook. It is written in an easy to read conversational style. The book is intended for Amateur Radio Operators, Short Wave Listeners, and anyone interested in radio as a hobby. At 308 pages it's a lot bigger than my other book on Software Defined Radio, and this time it is available in print or from Kindle for most e-Readers.

It includes sections on how different types of software defined radios work, the advantages of using them, and how they are tested. It also covers future trends including the development of Direct Fourier Conversion. There is a big section with tips for PowerSDR users and sections about other commonly used SDR software, plus a comparison of the basic specifications of 65 different SDR receivers and transceivers.

Please check it out at <https://www.amazon.com/Software-Defined-Radio-Operators-Listeners/dp/1534992421/>

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Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 5 to 12 December 2016

ARS Spartan Sprint

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 6 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Skinny; Tubby

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power

Work stations: Once per band

Submit logs by: 8 December 2016

E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://arsgrp.blogspot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 7 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 8 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 7 December

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name, state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 9 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.perluma.com/>

[Phone Fray Contest Rules.pdf](#)

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 7 December and

03:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member:

Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 10 December 2016

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 9 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 11 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 9 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 10 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 December

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 11 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

00:00 UTC 10 December to 24:00 UTC 11 December

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 10 m Only

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Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high - CW, phone or mixed;
Single Op Unlimited - QRP, low or high - CW, phone or mixed;
Multi-Single (Low/High)

Max operating hours: 36 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province; XE: RST and
state; DX: RST and serial no; MM: RST and ITU Region

QSO Points: 2 points per Phone QSO; 4 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: Each US State and DC once per mode; Each VE
Province/Territory once per mode; Each XE State once per
mode; Each DXCC Country once per mode; Each ITU Region
(MM only) once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 10 January 2017

E-mail logs to: 10-meter@arrrl.org

Upload log at: <http://contest-log-submission.arrrl.org/>.

Mail logs to: 10 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington,
CT 06111, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrrl.org/10-meter>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

12:00 UTC 10 December to 24:00 UTC 11 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max operating hours: 24

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no
or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total
mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 18 December 2016

Post log summary at: [http://www.skccgroup.com/
operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-
display.php](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-display.php)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.skccgroup.com/
operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/)

International Naval Contest

16:00 UTC 10 December to 15:59 UTC 11 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Naval Single Op All Band - CW, SSB or mixed; Naval
Club Station; non-Naval; SWL

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Exchange: Naval Club Member: RS(T), club and member no;
non-Naval Club Member: RS(T) and serial no

QSO Points: Naval Club Members: 10 points; non-Naval Club
Members: 1 point

Multipliers: Naval Club Members, once regardless of band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 February 2017

E-mail logs to: it9mrm@gmail.com

Mail logs to: Alberto Mattei, Via E. Millo, 20, 96011 Augusta
(SR), Italy

Find rules at: [http://www.marinefunker.de/eng/show.php3?
pos=16](http://www.marinefunker.de/eng/show.php3?pos=16)

AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party

23:00 UTC 10 December to 23:00 UTC 11 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, QTH, Eqpt Year and Transmitter Type
(see rules for format)

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 15 January 2017

E-mail logs to: wa9wfa@comcast.net

Mail logs to: Scott Freeberg WA9WFA, 327 Wildwood Ave-
nue, Saint Paul, MN 55110, USA

Find rules at: [http://www.antiquewireless.org/bruce-kelley-
memorial-cw-qso-party.html](http://www.antiquewireless.org/bruce-kelley-memorial-cw-qso-party.html)

CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run

21:00 - 22:59 UTC 11 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 5 points per QSO with W0CQC
or N0CQC

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 10 January 2017

E-mail logs to: vkumagai@q.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.coloradoqrpcub.org/contests/
snow.htm](http://www.coloradoqrpcub.org/contests/snow.htm)

OK DX RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 17 December

RAC Winter Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 17 December

Padang DX Contest, 12:00 - 23:59 UTC 17 December

Croatian CW Contest, 14:00 UTC 17 December to 14:00 UTC
18 December

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 15:00 UTC 17 December to
15:00 UTC 18 December

AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, 23:00 UTC 17 December
to 23:00 UTC 18 December

ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW, 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 18 December

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 19 Decem-
ber

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC CW Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 14 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 14 December

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 14 December

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00
UTC 14 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 15 December

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 16 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 16 December

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 16 December

Russian 160-Meter Contest, 20:00 UTC 16 December to 24:00
UTC 17 December

AGB-Party Contest, 21:00 - 24:00 UTC 16 December

Feld Hell Sprint, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 17 December

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African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Mauritius, 3B8. Johnny, SM6JBC, is now active as 3B8JB from Flic an Flac, Mauritius Island (AF-049). His length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using RTTY, PSK and some SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

IOTA Credit - 6V1IS/P. The two recent 6V1IS/p operations has been approved for IOTA credit. Activity took place from the islands of Ngor (from 16:00 UTC on 10 November to 09:00 UTC on 12 November) and Goree (from 21:00 UTC on 12 November to 13:00 UTC on 14 December); both count for IOTA group AF-045. QSL via IK7JWX; log search and OQRS on Club Log.

Maritime Mobile. Frank, F5MYK/MM is operating shipboard in the Indian Ocean, aboard the R/V Marion Dufresnes 2, until 2 January. His itinerary, leaving Reunion, takes him near Crozet, Kerguelen, Amsterdam, Tromelin, Mauritius and back to Reunion on 30 December. He will check 40, 12 and 6 meters. He also often checks 6 meters during his lunch break from noon to 2 PM local.

Use of New Web Log Upload App Encouraged for ARRL 10 Meter Contest Participants

One of the more popular annual operating events - the ARRL 10 Meter Contest - <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter> - is this weekend, 10 and 11 December, beginning at 00:00 UTC on Saturday (Friday evening in US time zones) and winding up 48 hours later at 23:59 UTC on Sunday. The object is simple: Exchange contact information with as many stations as possible on 10 meters. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is open to all radio amateurs, because Technician licensees have access to the band. More contest newbies are active in the 10 Meter Contest than in any other event, and it is a good time to get acquainted with contesting techniques too.

Participants submitting logs for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest are urged to take advantage of the new web upload app <http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org/>. This app makes it easy to submit a Cabrillo-formatted log, plus it makes sure the log is properly formatted before it's accepted. The article, "Online Log Upload for ARRL Contests," on page 82 of the November issue of *QST*, explains how to use the app.



South African CW Watering hole
7.030 MHz

HF Happenings

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter